



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GOVERNOR THANKS PRESIDENT BUSH FOR GAS PRICE INQUIRY

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano has expressed her gratitude today for President George W. Bush's decision to ask the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Department of Justice and the federal Energy Department to "conduct inquiries into illegal manipulation or cheating related to the current gasoline prices." The President announced those inquiries in a speech yesterday in Washington, D.C.

More than two years ago, on February 25, 2004, Governor Napolitano sent a letter to President Bush asking for precisely this kind of action. In her letter, the Governor wrote, "...I am concerned that producers, refiners or other participants in the petroleum industry may be setting prices based on factors other than competitive free market forces." The Governor's letter continued, "Because this is a national concern, I ask that you, Attorney General Ashcroft, or another appropriate federal authority conduct a prompt and thorough inquiry into these issues."

The White House response to Governor Napolitano's request came roughly 60 days later, and said that while the Secretary of Energy and the Federal Trade Commission would "conduct inquiries, where appropriate" into significant prices increases, there was no mention of further investigation.

A copy of the Governor's letter and the White House response is attached.

Today, Governor Napolitano said she is glad to finally see federal action. "Two years ago, the price of a gallon of gasoline was around \$2.11. Arizonans were suffering through unexplained price increases yet nothing changed. Now, with prices closer to \$3.00 per gallon, we are finally getting the federal government to demand some answers."

States have little control or input into the retail price of gasoline. However, Arizona – through the Department of Weights and Measures - continues to aggressively monitor supplies of gasoline, as well as the accuracy of the pumps, to ensure consumers an adequate supply of gasoline, and that they are receiving the correct amount and quality of gasoline they are paying for.

More information about the Governor's Office is available at www.azgovernor.gov; for information about the Arizona Department of Weights and Measures, go to www.azdwm.gov.